Information provided by Colonel Robert Walk

Soldier Qualification Training

There are three courses being taught through five Total Army School System (TASS) battalions. The schedule for these courses can be found by accessing the Army Training Requirements and Resources System (ATRRS) (see Web site <*https://www.atrrs.army.mil/*> for information on accessing ATRRS). A brief description of each course follows:

- **74D10 Military Occupational Specialty Training (MOS-T) Course (formerly the Reclassification Course).** The 74D10 MOS-T course has four phases. Phase I is offered via distributed learning (DL). But don't try to complete it in one weekend—it cannot be done. Phases II and IV are offered as resident training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Phase III is offered as nonresident instruction and is provided in the TASS battalion regions.
- **Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course (BNCOC).** The 74D BNCOC has four phases. Phase I is common to all MOSs. Phases II and IV are 74D-specific, resident training at Fort Leonard Wood. Phase III is 74D-specific, nonresident instruction provided in the TASS battalion regions.
- **Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course (ANCOC).** The 74D ANCOC has three phases. Phases I and III are resident training at Fort Leonard Wood. Phase II is nonresident instruction provided in the TASS battalion regions.

Instructors at the TASS battalions access the courseware for the proponent schools through the Digital Training Access Center (DTAC) Web site. TASS courseware is accessible as a downloadable file stored in the Blackboard learning management system. The Chemical Quality Assurance Element contacts the instructors at the TASS battalions by e-mail and provides them with instructions on how to access the courseware.

Officer Training

Initial-entry Chemical Corps officer training is transitioning from the Chemical Officer Basic Course (COBC) to the Basic Officer Leader Course (BOLC) in July 2006. The BOLC is a three-phase course that first trains officers to be warrior leaders and then moves on to provide specialized training. Personnel in all components—U.S. Army Reserve (USAR), U.S. Army National Guard (ARNG), and Active Army—attend the same courses.

Phase I is precommissioning training at the U.S. Military Academy, Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC), or Officer Candidate School (OCS). After commissioning, new lieutenants attend Phase II at Fort Benning, Georgia, or Fort Sill, Oklahoma, to learn Soldier warrior tasks and drills. Phase III, conducted at Fort Leonard Wood, covers branch-specific training, focusing on chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) defense. The new course length is equivalent to the old COBC; however, the phase levels may be an issue for reserve component (RC) officers, as time must allow for travel for Phases II and III.

The Reserve Component Chemical Captains Career Course (RC-CMC3) has changed from a two-phase course to an extensive five-phase course. Phase I covers common-core material and is required for all captains, regardless of their component or branch designation. Phase II covers chemical technical material and is offered via DL. The completion of Phase II is a prerequisite for attending Phase III training. Phase III, offered at the U.S. Army Chemical School at Fort Leonard Wood, is a two-week resident phase that focuses on branch-specific training for conducting chemical, smoke, radiological, and toxic-agent operations; managing the effects of biological agents; learning and developing defense concepts; and inciting hazardous material (HAZMAT) awareness. Phase IV is the DL portion of the combined arms exercise (CAX) program. The tasks in this phase prepare officers for company command and brigade staff assignments. Phase V, also conducted at Fort Leonard Wood, is the CAX resident portion and culminates in a military decision-making process that uses state-of-the-art battle simulation equipment. Beginning in October 2007, Military Police and Engineer students will train with Chemical RC-CMC3 students.

Officers transferring to the Chemical branch after attending another branch's officer basic course must attend the CBRN Defense Course. Other required training will depend on the officer's level of education.

U.S. Army Reserve- and National Guard-Specific Training

Civil Support Skills Course. The USACMLS continues to provide National Guard (NG) Soldiers and Airmen initial Weapons of Mass Destruction–Civil Support Team training. The course is eight weeks long and covers HAZMAT, site entry, sampling, survey operations, and practical exercises.

Domestic-Response Reconnaissance Training. The USACMLS is piloting the CBRN Responder Course. The intensive, two-week course provides certification training for HAZMAT, sampling, and entry operations. The initial intent is to supplement the RC's training efforts by producing HAZMAT-qualified Soldiers, but the future intent is to provide all HAZMAT USAR and ARNG training. The course is especially applicable and beneficial to USAR and NG CBRN enhanced response force package personnel, Active Army Chemical Soldiers, and Army civilians (civilians requiring the training for their positions). Expect to hear much more about this training program in the near future.

Mass-Casualty Decontamination Training. In Fiscal Year 2007, the USACMLS will pilot the mass-casualty decontamination training program to expand the original USAR domestic-response casualty decontamination training program and ensure that the necessary certification training is covered. The new course is expected to be an intensive, ten-day training period. Again, expect more information about this training program in the near future.

USACMLS Personnel Issues

Authorized Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) Positions. There are currently six authorized AGR positions. Five of these positions are filled—the Deputy Assistant Commandant–Reserve Component (DAC-RC) (a USAR colonel position), the Deputy Assistant Commandant–National Guard (DAC-NG) (an Army NG lieutenant colonel position), two training developers (USAR major and master sergeant positions), and two combat developers (USAR lieutenant colonel positions) (one of these lieutenant colonels is currently serving as the Director, Incident Response Training Detachment in a temporary position).

Drilling Individual Mobilization Augmentee (DIMA) Positions. The USAR has twenty authorized DIMA positions in the USACMLS—twelve officer slots (captain through lieutenant colonel) and eight noncommissioned officer slots (sergeant first class through sergeant major). Our mission is to expand the USACMLS training capabilities during mobilization periods. The USAR currently supports the RC-CMC3 training mission. Our goal is to achieve 100 percent coverage of authorized instructor positions with qualified personnel. We strive to improve CMC3 and RC-CMC3 training through our work. We are always looking for qualified Soldiers to fill these positions, so contact us if you are interested or need additional information about reserve training.

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FROM THE SCHOOL

In a continuing effort to provide timely information about ongoing initiatives and activities at the U.S. Army Chemical School, periodically updated information is available at <*http://www.wood.army.mil/usacmls/*>.